

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 5, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-114)

TO: Sabrina Keen
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Protect and Restore Lolo Creek Watershed – Jim Brown Creek Road Stream Crossing Project

Project No: 1996-077-02

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams, 1.12 Hardened Fords, 1.14 Reduce Scour and Deposition at Hydraulic Structures, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement – Fishways, 5.11 Hardened Fords for Livestock Crossings of Stream, 7.2 Install Hydraulic Structures at Low Streamflows, 7.4 Divert Water Around Construction of Larger Structures, 7.5 Avoid Stream Crossings Outside of Construction Windows, 9.22 Construction – Erosion and Sediment Control Plans, 9.23 Construction – Erosion and Sediment Control Structures

Location: Clearwater County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Nez Perce Tribe

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund stream crossing upgrades in the Jim Brown Creek Watershed in Clearwater County, Idaho for the purpose of fish passage improvement. The proposed project is located on private land owned by the Potalch Corporation on Burnt and Bat Creeks in the Jim Brown Creek drainage. Project activities include removing one log culvert and replacing another on Burnt Creek, removing fill materials from a suspected log culvert failure on Burnt Creek, and improving a degraded cattle ford on Bat Creek

The first log culvert on Burnt Creek is on a road that will no longer be used therefore, the culvert will be completely removed. The second log culvert on Burnt Creek, which currently creates a fish passage barrier, will be replaced with a squash culvert sized for the 100-year flood event. Materials from a suspected log culvert failure have created a passage barrier at another location on Burnt Creek. This fill material will be removed from the stream and relocated to the road bed. On Bat Creek, excessive cattle grazing has resulted in stream degradation, including a decreased width to depth channel ratio and a damaged riparian area. Project activities include creating a cobble bed crossing, installing stream grade control structures, and stabilizing the streambank with riparian plantings.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Heidi McRoberts with the Nez Perce Tribe (June 3, 2003) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are bald eagle, gray wolf, Canada lynx, bull trout, spring/summer chinook salmon, fall chinook salmon, and steelhead. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for the Jim Brown Creek Project to NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on June 3, 2003, and submitted updated information concerning Canada lynx to USFWS on June 13, 2003. As part of the BA, BPA determined that the proposed actions would have no effect on Canada lynx, spring/summer chinook salmon, or fall chinook salmon. BPA also concluded that the proposed actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect bald eagle, gray wolf, bull trout, and steelhead. In addition, BPA determined that the proposed actions may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat for chinook and coho salmon. USFWS issued a letter of concurrence on these findings on July 15, 2003. NOAA Fisheries issued a letter of concurrence on these findings on July 31, 2003.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resources survey of the Jim Brown Creek stream/road crossing sites was completed by Kevin Cannell with the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program. An intensive pedestrian survey utilizing 10-meter meandering transects was conducted on each of the four project sites. All of the locations were found to have been heavily disturbed by road and culvert construction. No cultural resources were recorded as part of this survey. Based on the survey findings, BPA determined that the project would have no affect on cultural and/or historic resources. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office concurred with these findings on July 18, 2003. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is encountered during project construction, a qualified archaeologist should be notified and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of this project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Jim Brown Creek Project. Notice of the project was published in the Tac Titooquan local newspaper. Discussions have also been held with the landowner, the County and Tribe, and various State and Federal agencies.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management

Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 8-5-03

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

DATE: 8-5-03

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NOAA Fisheries Letter of Concurrence, July 31, 2003

USFWS Letter of Concurrence, July 15, 2003

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office Letter of Concurrence, July 18, 2003

cc: (w/ attachments)

Ms. Heidi McRoberts – Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries